

**Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports, Executive Director Update, Literacy Campaign and Secretary's Report.**

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan; Barbara B. Rutt and Terry W. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez and seconded by Dr. Whittaker to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the regular meeting of February 18, 2016 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comment

Mike Matthews from the Red Clay Education Association spoke highly about a program he recently visited. Project Search is a program sponsored by Christiana Care Hospital and addresses the transition of special education students aged 18-21 to career and adulthood. The program provides life skills and internships. The program has also been nominated for a Super Star award.

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mrs. Bunting attended several meetings and events including the Teacher of the Year forum. She also plans to attend the NASBE Legislative Conference. Dr. Whittaker attended a community feedback session. Mrs. Rutt attended the EFIC Task Force meeting and the DSBA Legislative Committee meeting. She also introduced John Marinucci, DSBA's new Executive Director. Mr. Heffernan also provided comments on Project Search noting that the program serves several districts.

Ms. Johnson highlighted some of the items and news briefs shared under the Executive Director's report. She highlighted an ESSA session sponsored by NASBE and the Hunt Institute. Ms. Johnson pointed out several articles that focused on Educators as Catalysts including the new teacher performance assessments to make sure our teachers are as prepared as they can be when they enter our classrooms.

Dr. Gray attended the WEIC meeting and the ESSA briefing sponsored by NASBE and the Hunt Institute.

### Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

Ms. Johnson provided a quick update and focused on the policy recommendations of the Licensure and Certification program of the campaign.

### Secretary's Report

Secretary Godowsky introduced Meghan Wallace, Governor Markell's new Education Policy Adviser noting that Lindsay O'Mara has joined the U.S. Department of Education staff. Dr. Godowsky commented on his visits to schools this month and the awarding of a diploma to a World War II veteran. He also met with the Leadership Delaware cohort and stated that the updated Social Studies standards have been published for public comment.

### **State Board Presentations**

#### Educators as Catalysts Recognition

The Board and Secretary Godowsky recognized the following school and district leaders: Mervin B. Daugherty, Superintendent in the Red Clay Consolidated School District, as Delaware's Superintendent of the Year. Veronica (Voni) Perrine, Assistant Principal at Middletown High School in the Appoquinimink School District as Delaware Assistant Principal of the Year for NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals). Charlynn Hopkins, currently the Director of Leadership in the Indian River School District, as Delaware's National Distinguished Principal for NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals). She was the Principal at John M. Clayton Elementary in Frankford. Ed Emmett, Director of Positive Outcomes Charter School, and Sally Maldonado, Head of School at Kuumba Academy as the Charter School Impact Awardees. Dr. Gray presented the State Board's Order of Excellence and Dr. Godowsky presented the Secretary's Merit Award. Congratulations were extended.

Also attending the recognition was Kevin Carson, Executive Director of the Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA), Jennifer Nauman, Principal at Shields Elementary, Cape Henlopen School District, President of DASA; Clifton Hayes, Principal of Delcastle High School in the New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District, President of the Principals' Association; and David Santore, Principal at Dover Air Force Base Middle School in the Caesar Rodney School District. Kendall Massett, Executive Director of the Charter School Network, and Chuck Taylor.

#### Communities in Schools

Jim Purcell, President of Communities in Schools, provided a briefing on the many services offered to students. CIS has served over 50,000 students and has helped decrease the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate in the high schools it serves. Mr. Purcell highlighted the Integrated Student Supports model and the tiered services CIS provides. Shanice Griffith, the Site Coordinator at McCullough Middle School and the former project coordinator at William Penn High School spoke of the many benefits of the program. Leila Ortiz, a student in the William Penn program provided her insight in participating in the program.

The Board recessed from 2:21 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.

## **State Board Action and Department Presentations**

### Amendments to the State Perkins Plan – For Action

Luke Rhine, Director of CTE Initiatives for the Department, noted that the amendments to the State Perkins Plan were presented last month. The State Board is the eligible agency and sole agency responsible for the supervision of administration of career and technical education for purposes of the Federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 Amendments to the State Perkins Plan. Mr. Rhine explained that the State Board's CTE Special Committee met and held public hearings for public comment. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

### Action on WEIC Final Proposal

Dr. Gray noted that on December 16, 2015 the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission submitted to the SBE its final report entitled "Redistricting in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County: A Transition, Resource, and Implementation Plan." The State Board at its meeting on January 21, 2016 voted to return the plan to the Commission for revision and resubmission. The WEIC resubmitted the plan with an addendum for action at the Board's February 18, 2016 meeting. The Board first voted not to approve the plan as presented, and then voted to approve the plan with 2 conditions. By letter to WEIC dated February 23, 2016 the SBE recited the conditions of its conditional approval as follows:

1. Approval by the Delaware Department of Education of priority school plans submitted by Christina School District.
2. Change of the word "shall" to "may" in item #2 of the resolution within the plan.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the WEIC resubmitted its final plan containing the addendum. Condition 1 has been shown to be met and is memorialized in a March 8, 2016 letter from Secretary Godowsky to the State Board and WEIC, which is part of the record. Condition 2 was addressed by modification to the language in clause #2 of the Resolution by removing the sentence in question containing the word "shall." The role for suspending the plan due to insufficient funding is that of WEIC and the Districts.

Dr. Gray also noted the official record which the Board will base its decision. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the WEIC Redistricting Plan with Addendum as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale. Mrs. Rutt commented that the first condition has been met and felt that the second condition had been partially met and that the plan was in the best interest of children. Mr. Heffernan stated that he cannot accept the argument that one is either for this current plan or against the kids. He stated that he is for kids and for a plan but these students need a stronger plan. Mr. Heffernan also agrees with WEIC in that a more equitable funding system is needed. He also noted that there is little difference in the achievement of low income students in Red Clay when compared to Christina and the Board asked in the very beginning that

it needed to see improving student outcomes in the plan. Mr. Heffernan stated that he cannot accept an education improvement plan that does nothing better than what is currently being done. Mr. Melendez commented that the Board has always been focused on the students and challenged WEIC to make substantial changes and not come back with excuses.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Voting yes was Mr. Melendez, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Whittaker, and Dr. Gray. Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Coverdale, and Mr. Heffernan voted no.

#### Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate Report

Ted Jarrell presented the 2014-2015 graduation summary statewide data. For that school year, 8,293 of the 9,832 students in the cohort graduated at the end of the school year for an annual graduation rate of 84.3%. This is a slight decrease from the previous year. The Board also received the graduation rate by subgroup. For the dropout summary statewide data, 868 of the 39,650 students dropped out of school in the 2014-2015 school year for an annual dropout rate of 2.2%. This is a slight increase from the previous year's rate of 2.1%. The Board asked for data by zip code and Mr. Jarrell noted that there is geo coding of the data that can be provided, which could enable the data to be displayed in heat maps.

The Board recessed from 3:24 p.m. to 3:33 p.m. Dr. Whittaker asked to be excused at this time.

#### **Action Items, Regulations, Charter Schools, Professional Standards Board, Appeals and Reviews, Information Items, Adjournment**

##### Revisions to Arts Standards

Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson and Deb Hansen noted that the State Board was presented with the revisions to the arts standards at its February meeting. Ms. Hansen provided the Board with the feedback received from the public workshops. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to consent to the revised Arts Standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

##### Regulations

Tina Shockley presented the regulations on the agenda.

Revisions to Regulation 106A and 107A are being amended to clarify policy and procedures for credentialing and re-credentialing of those who utilize the statewide teacher evaluation system. The regulation is also being amended to reduce the number of surveys educators receive for the evaluation of the teacher appraisal system by setting the requirement to biennial instead of annual. Christopher Ruszkowski from the TLEU Branch was present to respond to questions from the Board. It was noted that these revisions would take effect immediately.

Regulation 292 clarifies the approval process for Degree Granting Institutions of Higher Education. Wendy Modelzewski was present to respond to questions.

Regulations 923 through 926 focus on Children with Disabilities. Mary Ann Mieczkowski was present to respond to questions.

Ms. Shockley noted that Regulation 621 was to repeal the regulation and only required the approval of the Secretary.

#### Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney and David Blowman presented the Charter School items.

Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security requested a major modification to decrease the student enrollment by 22% over five years, effective July 1, 2016. The Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request. Secretary Godowsky stated that after review of the record he agreed and recommended that the State Board consent to his decision. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to consent to the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

Delaware Design Lab High School requested a major modification to decrease the student enrollment by 15% over five years. The Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request. Secretary Godowsky stated that after review of the record he agreed and recommended that the State Board consent to his decision. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

First State Montessori Academy requested a major modification to increase the student enrollment by 15% in 2016-2017 and to change the grade configuration to add 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2017 and 2018. The request also added space to accommodate the increased enrollment. The Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request. Secretary Godowsky stated that after review of the record he agreed and recommended that the State Board consent to his decision. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to consent to the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

Prestige Academy requested a major modification to change its grade configuration to eliminate Grade 5 and serve Grades 6-8 and to reduce the number of school attendance days from 194 to 184. The Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request. Secretary Godowsky stated that after review of the record he agreed and recommended that the State Board consent to his decision. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to consent to the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried by roll call vote (Yes: Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Coverdale, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Gray; No: Mr. Melendez; Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

The Board received an update on the closing of Delaware Met and the placement of all its students. It was noted that 98% are currently enrolled in new schools and contact has been made with all parents and guardians. It was also noted that minor modification requests have been received from Delaware Design Lab, Great Oaks Charter School and Kuumba Academy.

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Regulation 1559 was approved for publication. The motion was made by Mrs. Rutt and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate was discussed and Mr. Kenton stated that comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. The regulation will be presented for action next month.

Regulation 1502 Professional Growth Salary Increments was presented for action. This regulation applies to graduate level salary increments for educators, pursuant to Code. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker). The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Appeals and Reviews

Ms. Kirshon provided an update on the appeal. Dr. Gray thanked Ms. Kirshon for her years as the Board's DAG and congratulated her on her promotion to Deputy State Solicitor.

Adjournment

Dr. Gray noted the personnel items for the Board's information. There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Dr. Whittaker).

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education